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THE

GAELIC PSALM TUNES OF ROSS-SHIRE

AND THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTIES.

THE HARMONY AND INTRODUCTORY DISSERTATION,

BY

JOSEPH MAINZER.

EDINBURGH:
WILLIAM OLIPHANT & SONS, AND JOHN JOHNSTONE.
LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO.
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PREFACE.

The Melodies to which the Psalms are sung in the Gaelic Churches of Ross-shire and Sutherland, have been, till lately, almost entirely unknown, and have scarcely ever reached beyond the limits of the parishes where they are sung. They were published by me for the first time in 1844.* A great deal of attention has since been paid to them; and, at the opening of the General Assembly of the Free Church in Inverness, they were sung by the assembled multitude, and produced that astonishing effect, which their sacred character, and the deep religious feeling of which they are a most poetical expression, can hardly fail to do wherever they are heard. Whatever strains call forth such effects, they deserve to live. Their unknown origin, their association with the religion of the inhabitants of the remotest north of Great Britain, their peculiarly wild, simple, yet touching character, render them still more interesting to us, and enhance their value as specimens of the popular music of the Celts.

For fuller information, I have only to refer to the larger edition, wherein the present Tunes have been published, with an accompaniment for the Piano; and letters from Robert Brown, Esq.; Dr Mackay of Dunoon; the Rev. Mr M'Leod of Logie Easter; and with an introductory dissertation, regarding their application in public worship, their antiquity, origin, and character.

We may say, in regard to the correctness of the tunes, that we have con-

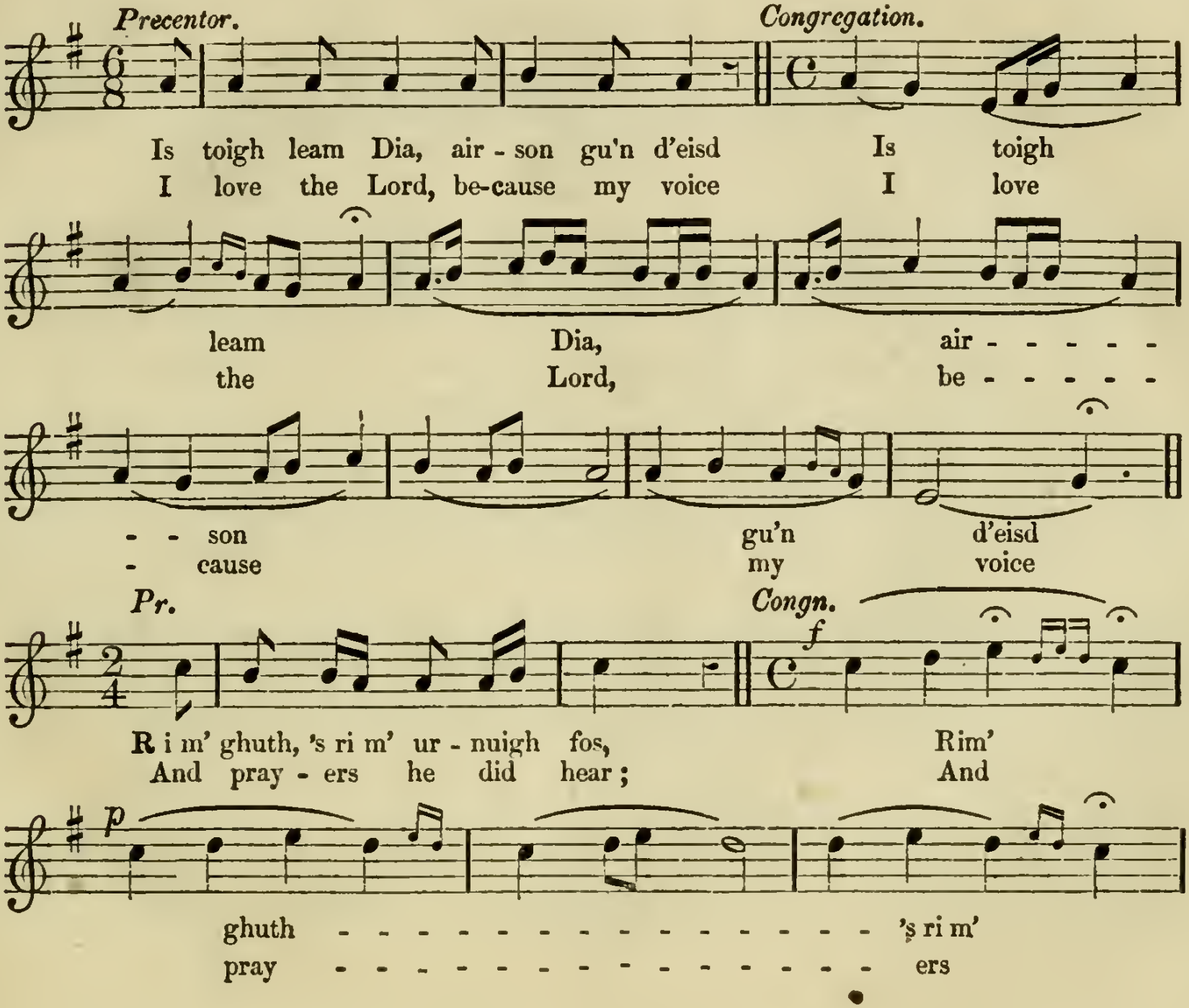
* Gaelic Psalmody of Ross-shire and the Neighbouring Counties, with an Introductory Dissertation, by Joseph Mainzer. Edinburgh: John Johnstone.

scientiously adhered to the manner in which the people sing them in the northern highlands. It is, however, to be expected that, in this kind of musical production, invented and sung by the people, differences would occur in the different parts of the country. *Stilt* especially seems to have undergone considerable changes. We add therefore a second edition, for which we are indebted to the kind communication of the Rev. Thomas M'Lauchlan, Free Church Minister of Gorthleck.

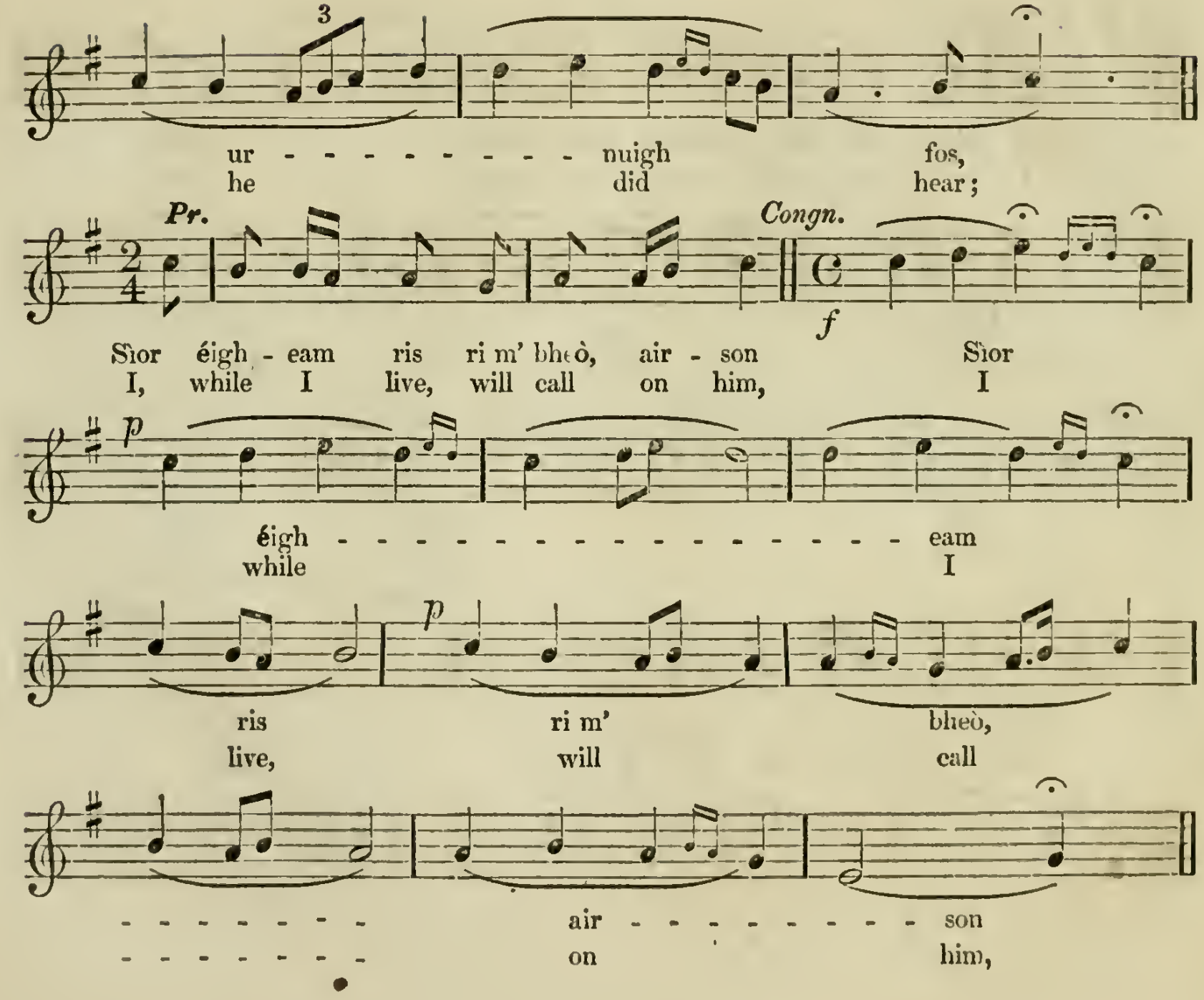
To the tune, which in the Highlands is called *London*, we have given no place, neither in this nor in our larger edition. Its monotony would not be an ornament to either; we follow, therefore, the people who, in public and private worship, have almost every where condemned it to silence and oblivion.

Joseph Mainzer.

DUNDEE.


Precentor.
Congregation.
Is toigh leam Dia, air - son gu'n d'eisd
I love the Lord, be-cause my voice
Is toigh
I love
leam Dia, air - - - - -
the Lord, be - - - - -
- - son gu'n d'eisd
- cause my voice
Pr.
Congn.
f
R i m' ghuth, 's ri m' ur - nuigh fos,
And pray - ers he did hear;
Rim'
And
p
ghuth - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 's ri m'
pray - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - ers

DUNDEE—Continued.



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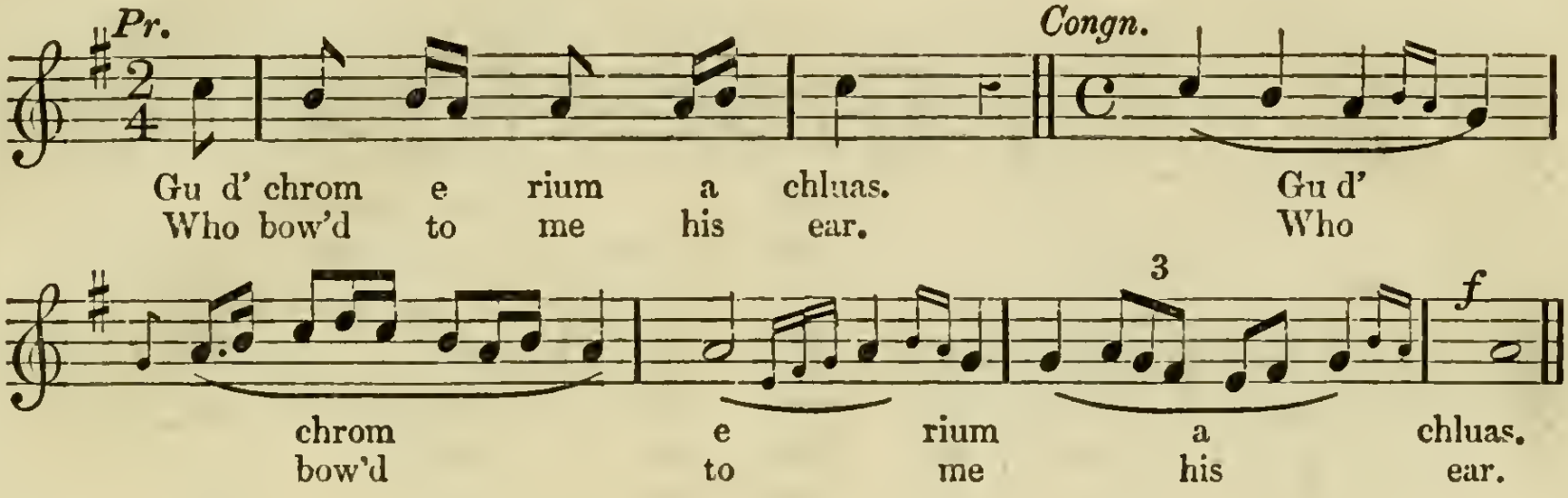
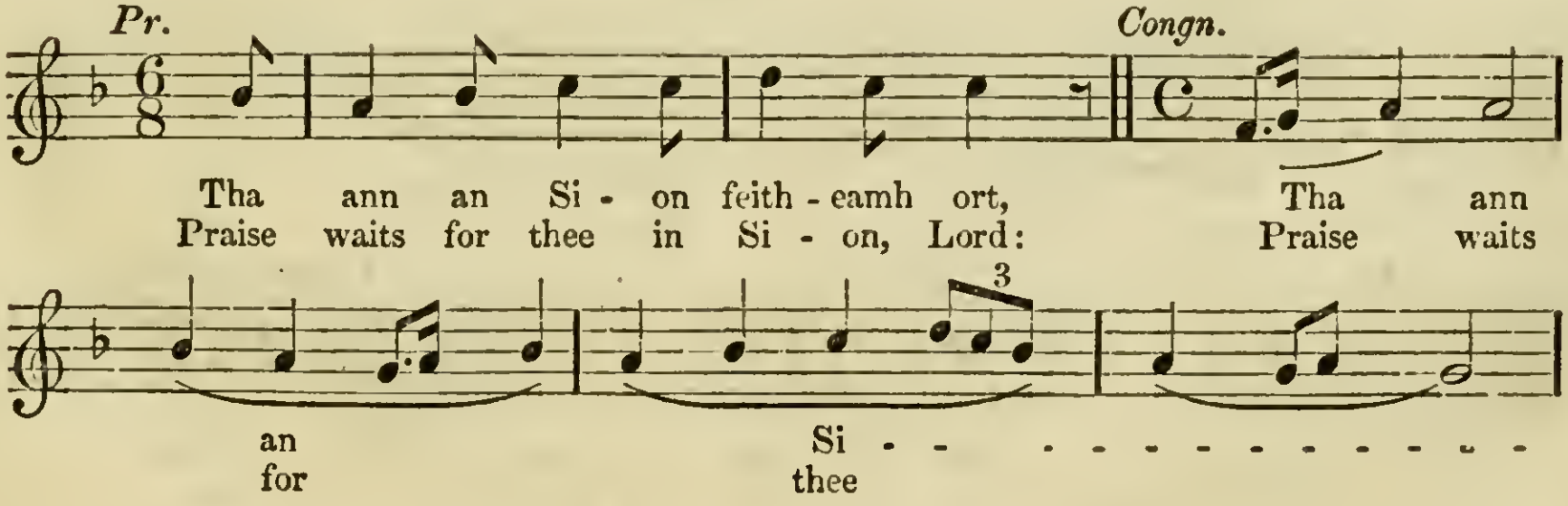


FRENCH.



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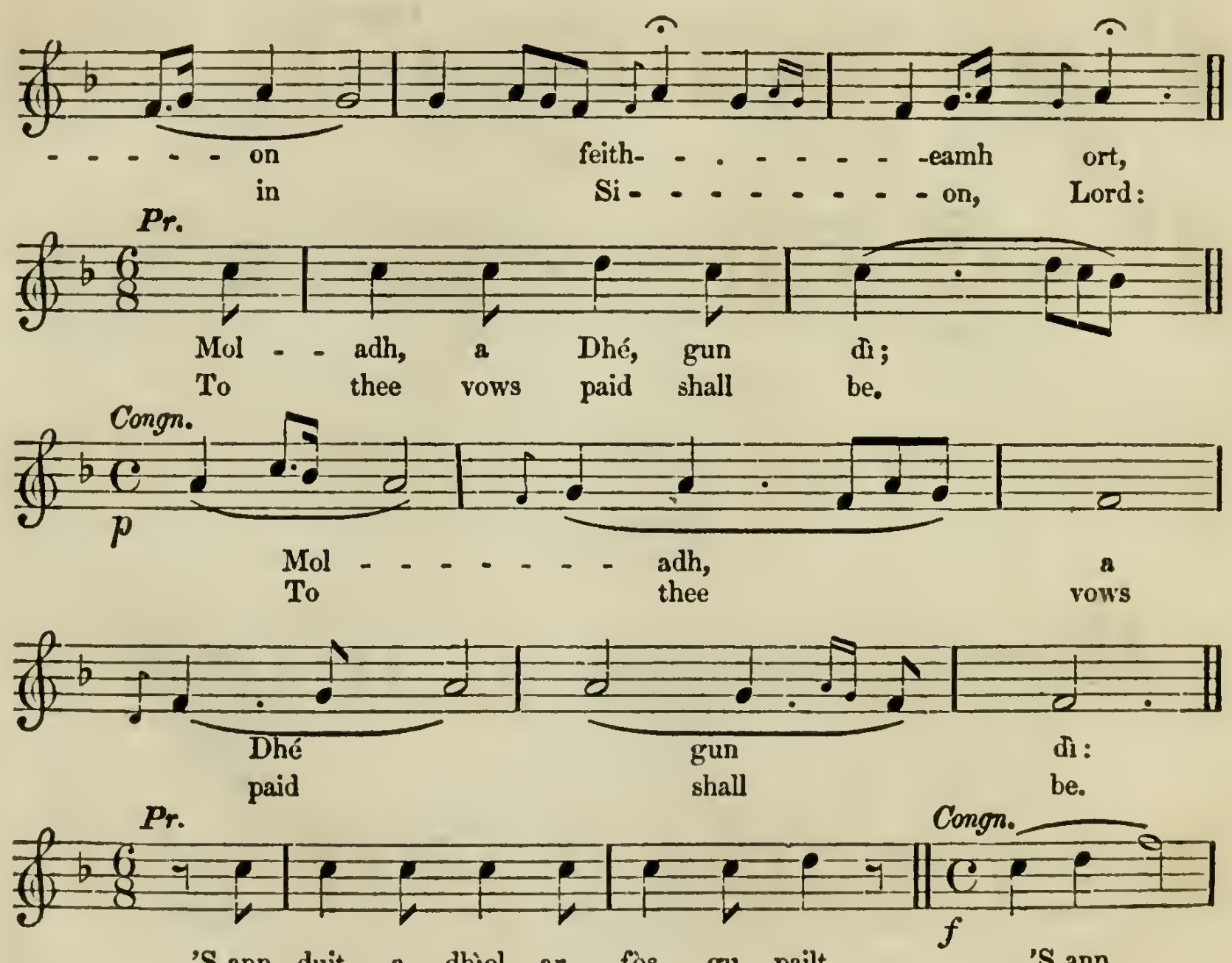

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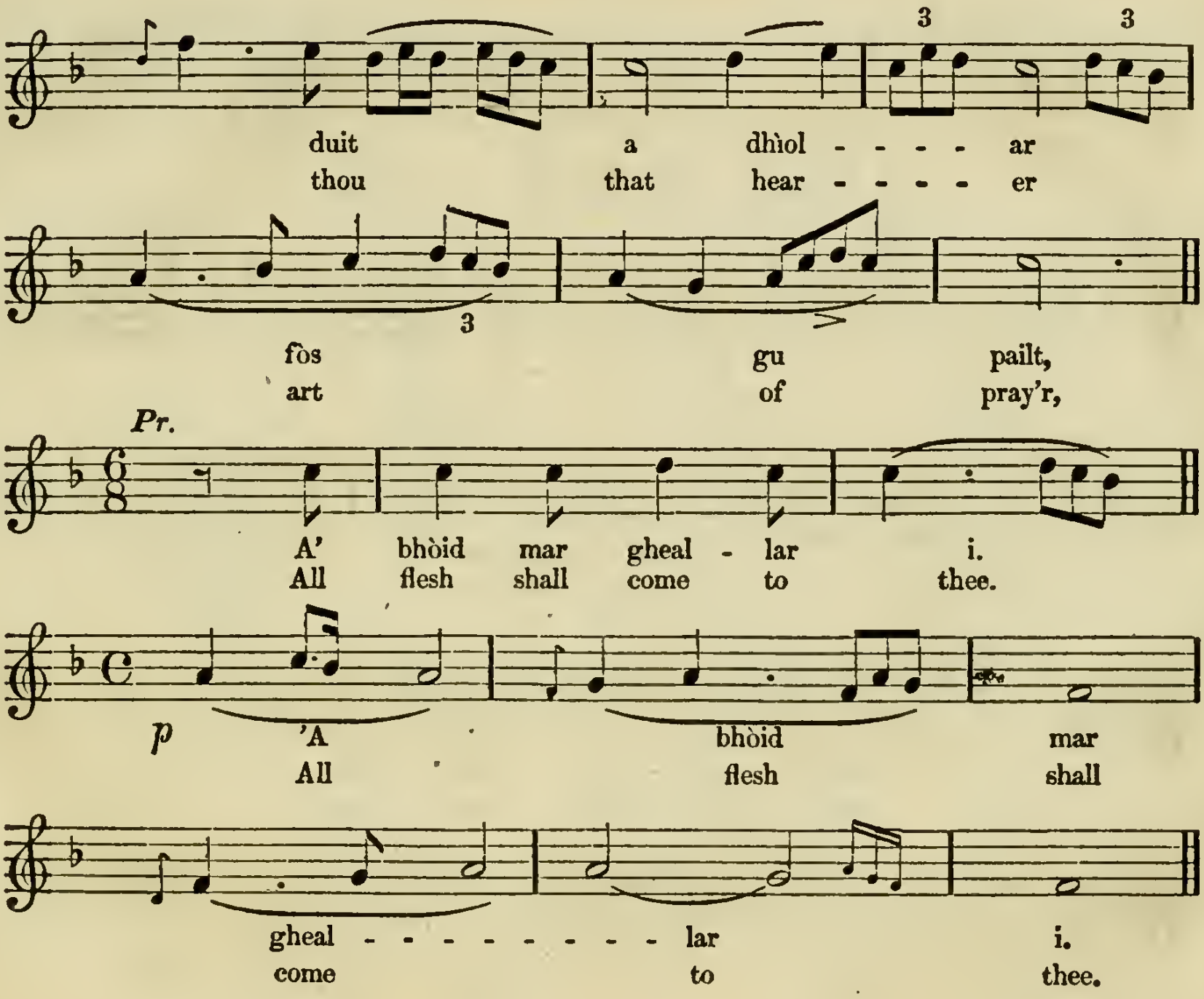
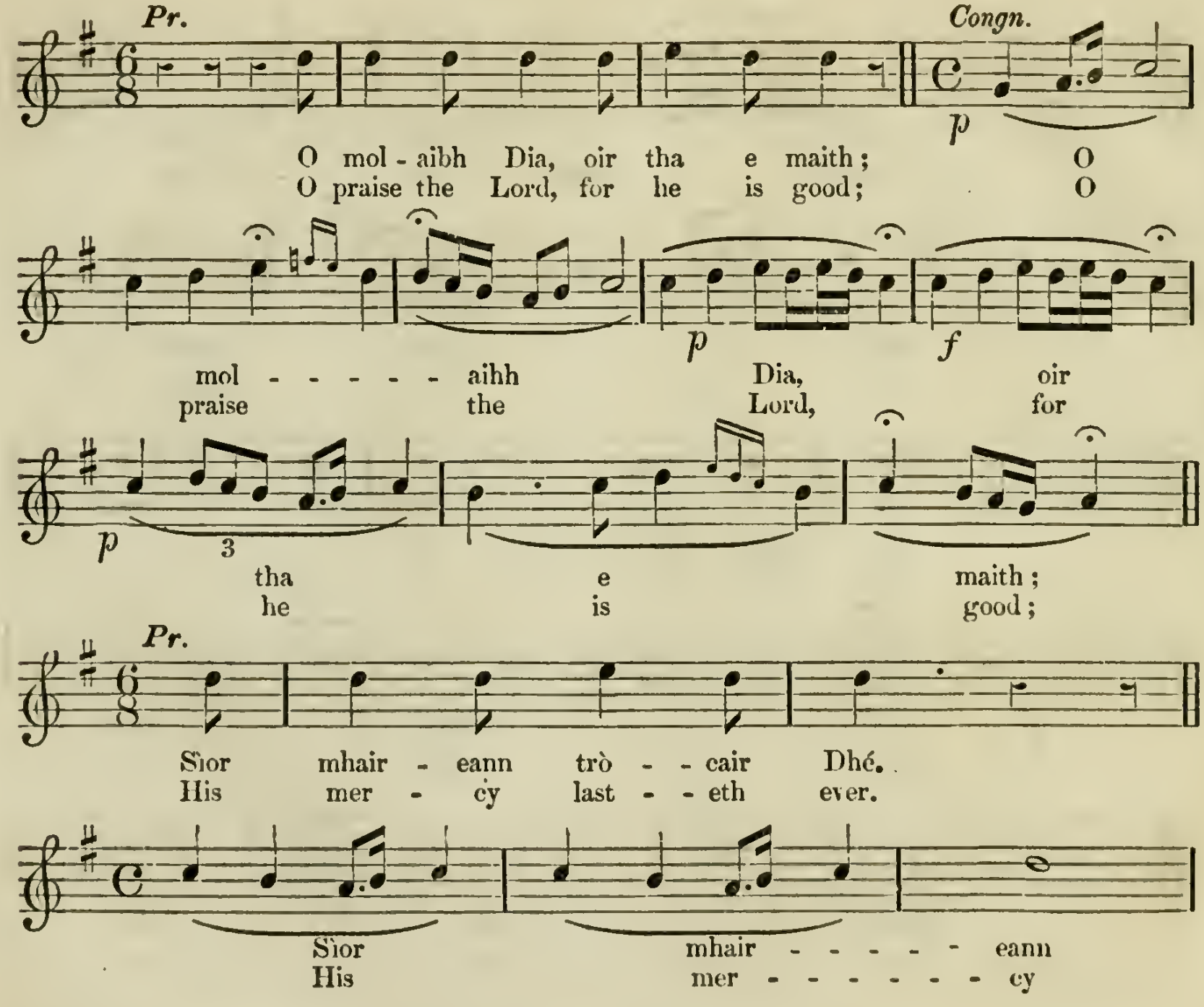
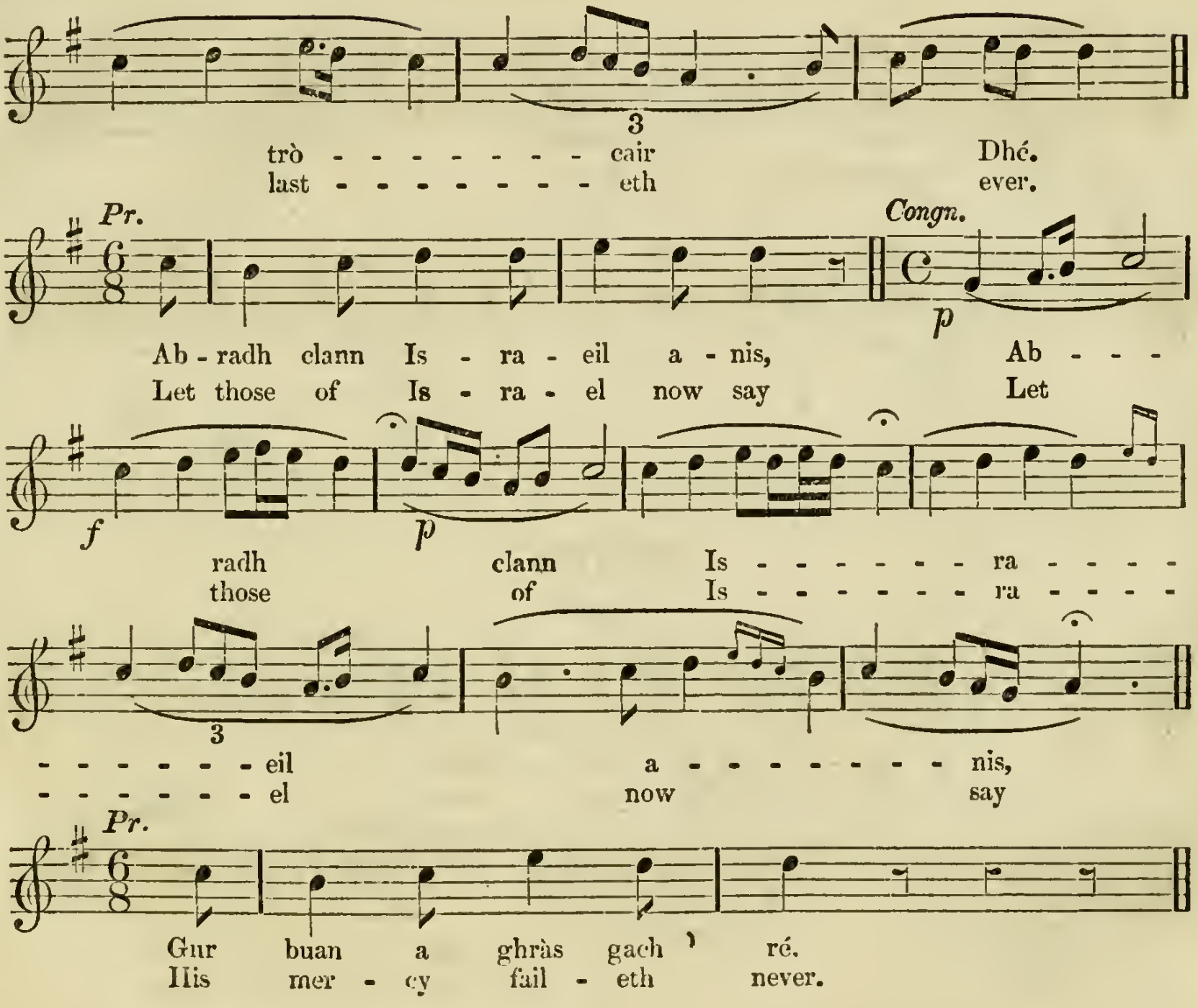


STILT.


Pr.
Congn.
p
O mol - aibh Dia, oir tha e maith; O
O praise the Lord, for he is good; O
p
f
mol - - - - - aihh Dia, oir
praise the Lord, for
p
3
tha e maith;
he is good;
Pr.
Sìor mhair - eann trò - - cair Dhé.
His mer - cy last - - eth ever.
Sìor mhair - - - - - eann
His mer - - - - - - - cy

STILT—Continued.



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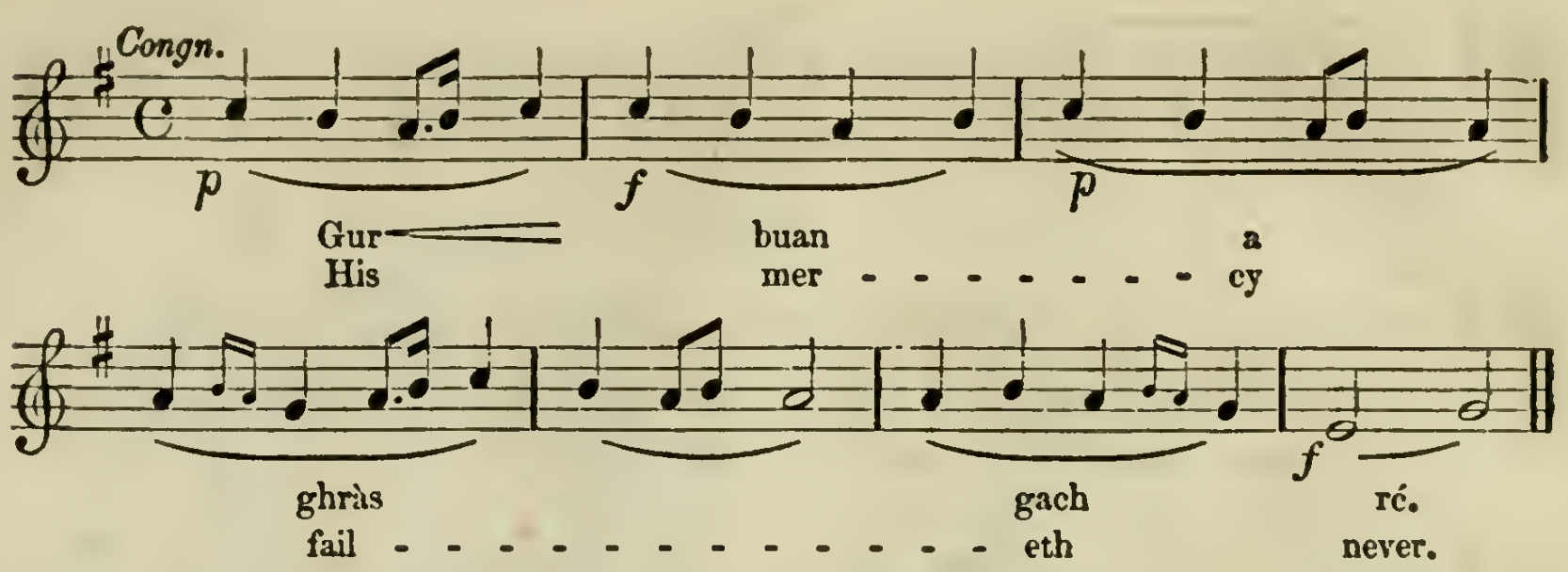
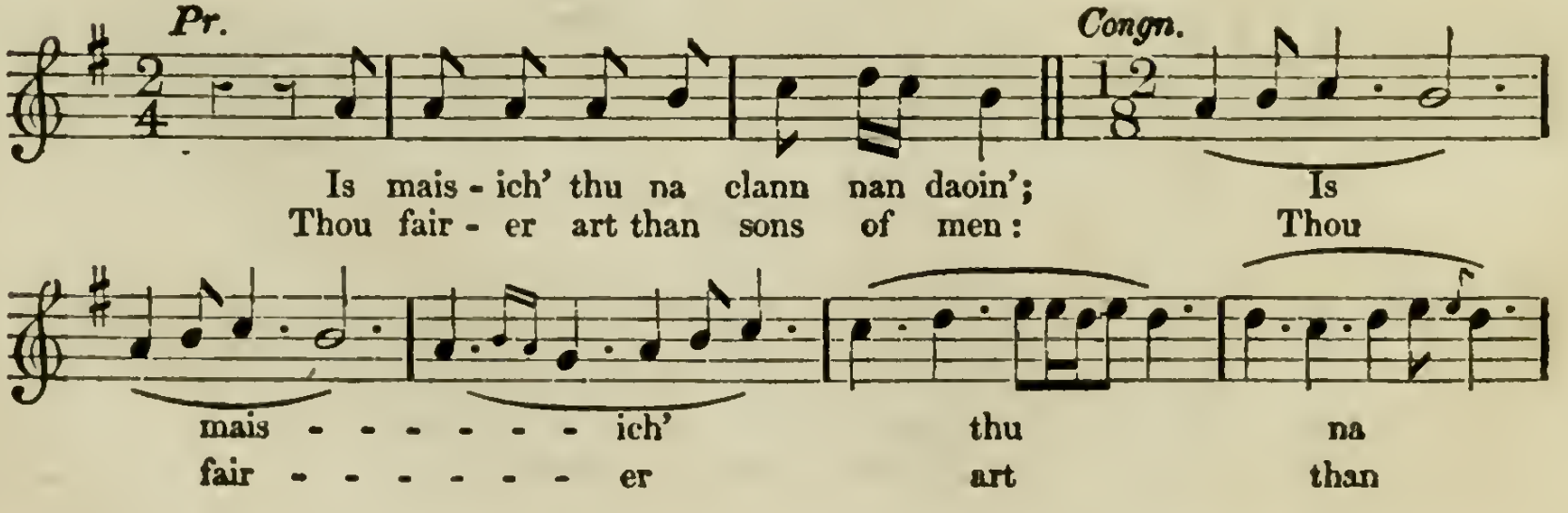


ELGIN.



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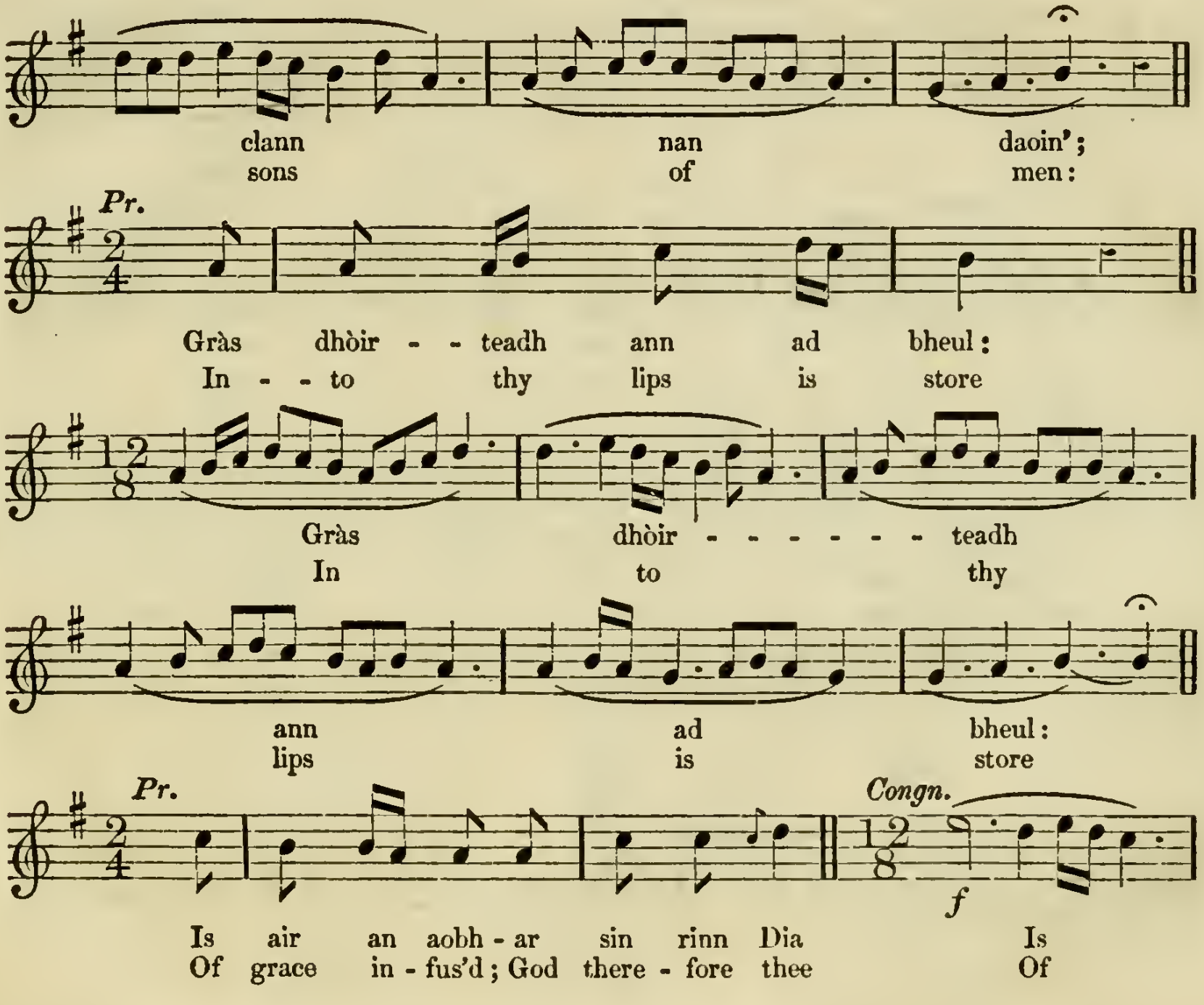

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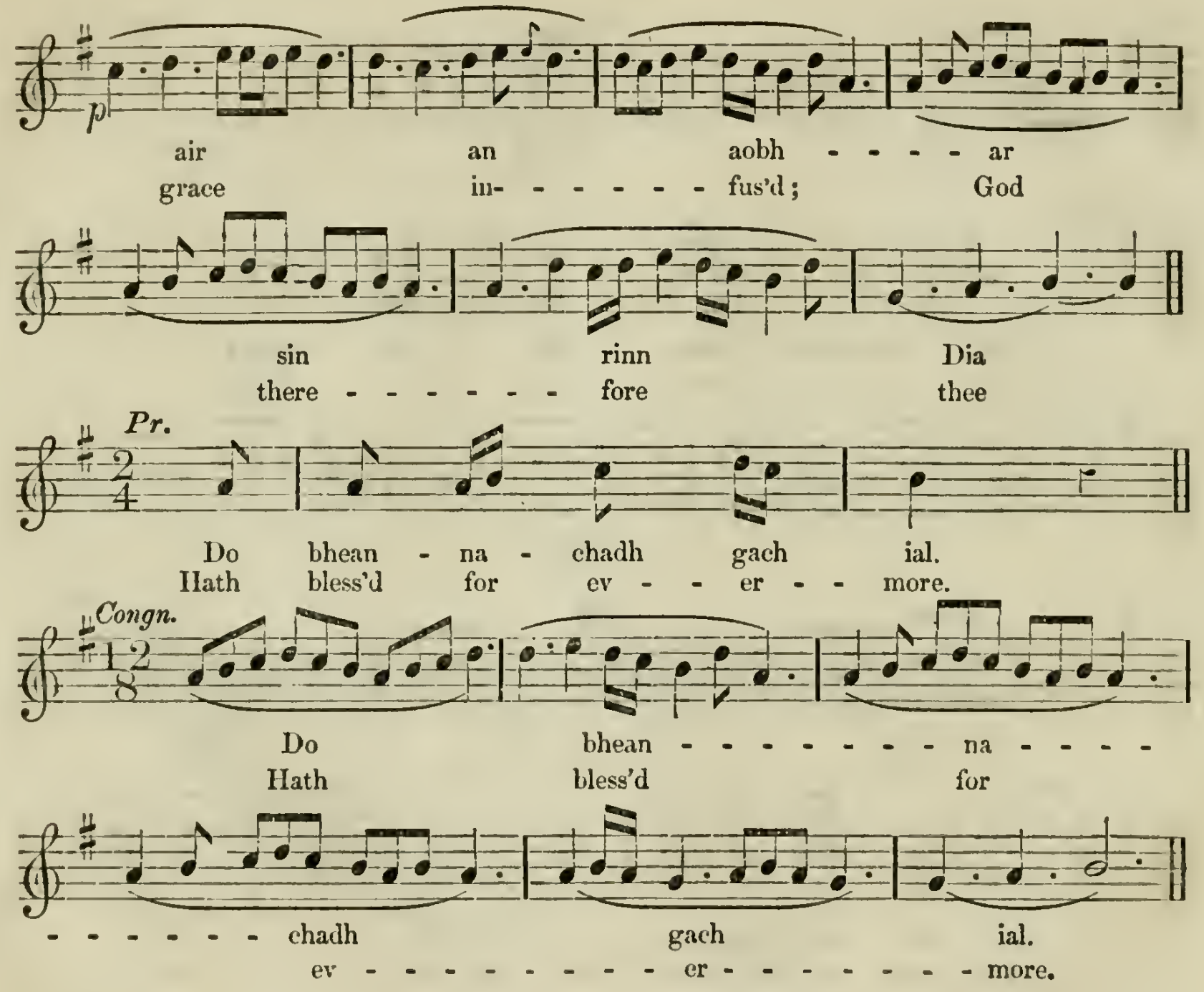
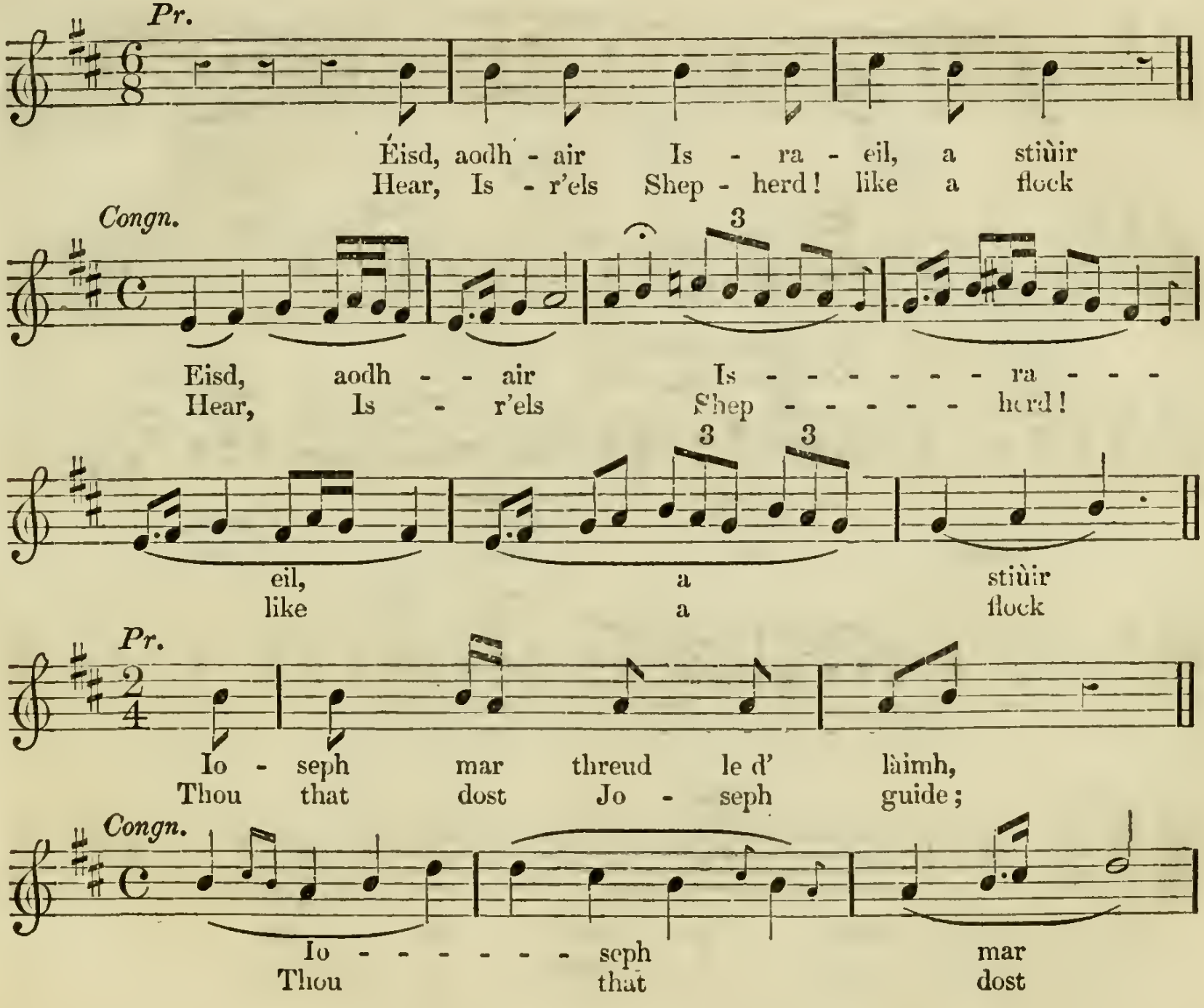
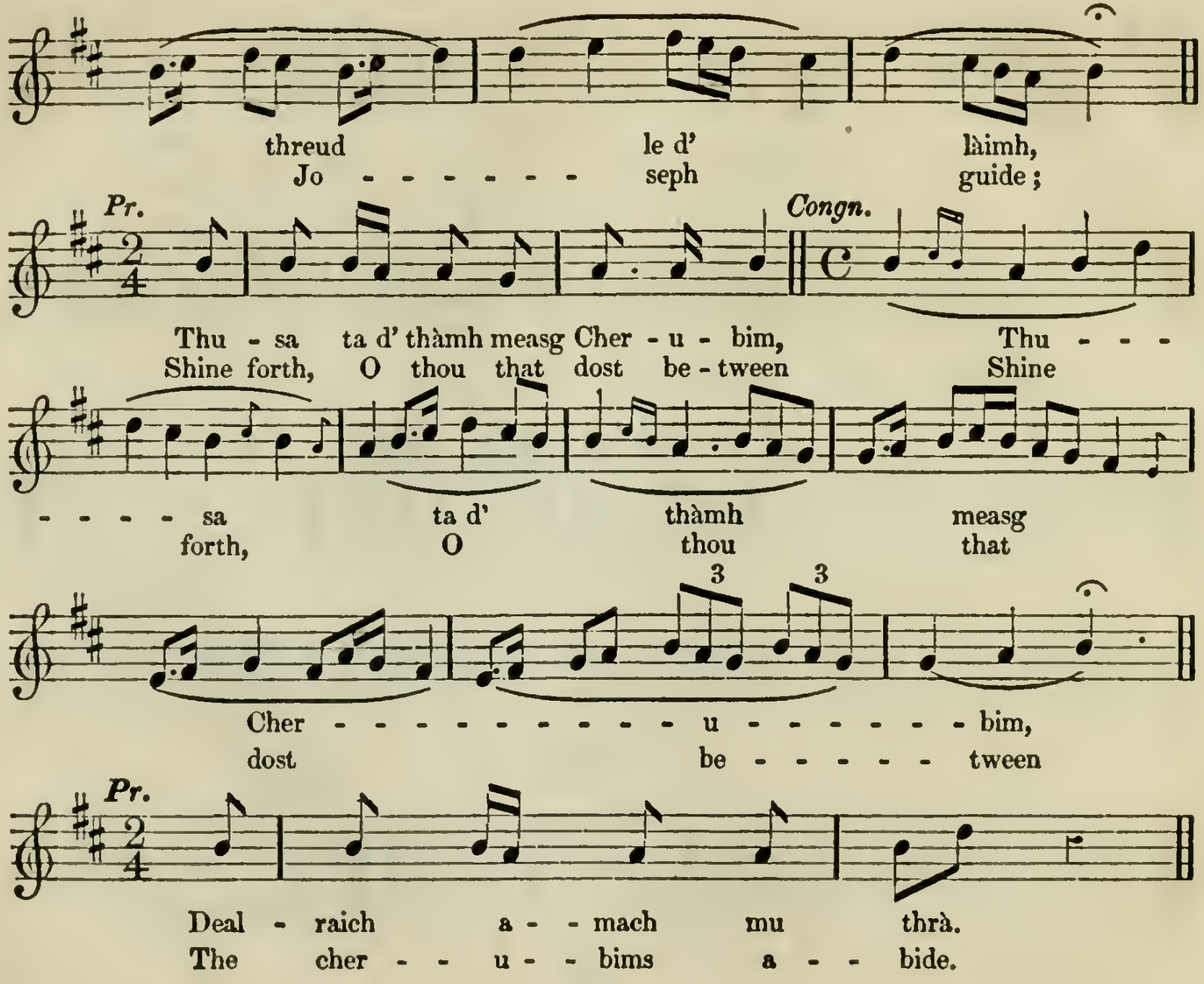


MARTYRS.


Pr.
Éisd, aodh - air Is - ra - eil, a stiùir
Hear, Is - r'els Shep - herd! like a flock
Congn.
3
Eisd, aodh - - air Is - - - - - - - ra - - -
Hear, Is - r'els Shep - - - - - herd!
3 3
eil, a stiùir
like a flock
Pr.
Io - seph mar threud le d' làimh,
Thou that dost Jo - seph guide;
Congn.
Io - - - - - - - seph mar
Thou that dost

MARTYRS—Continued.



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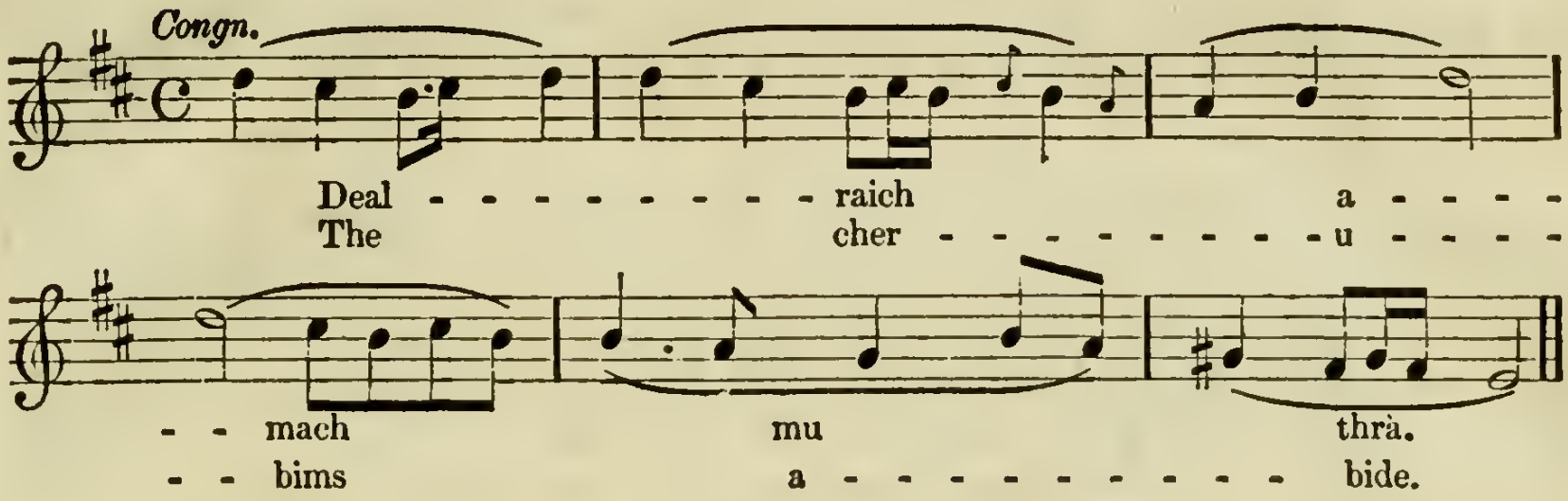
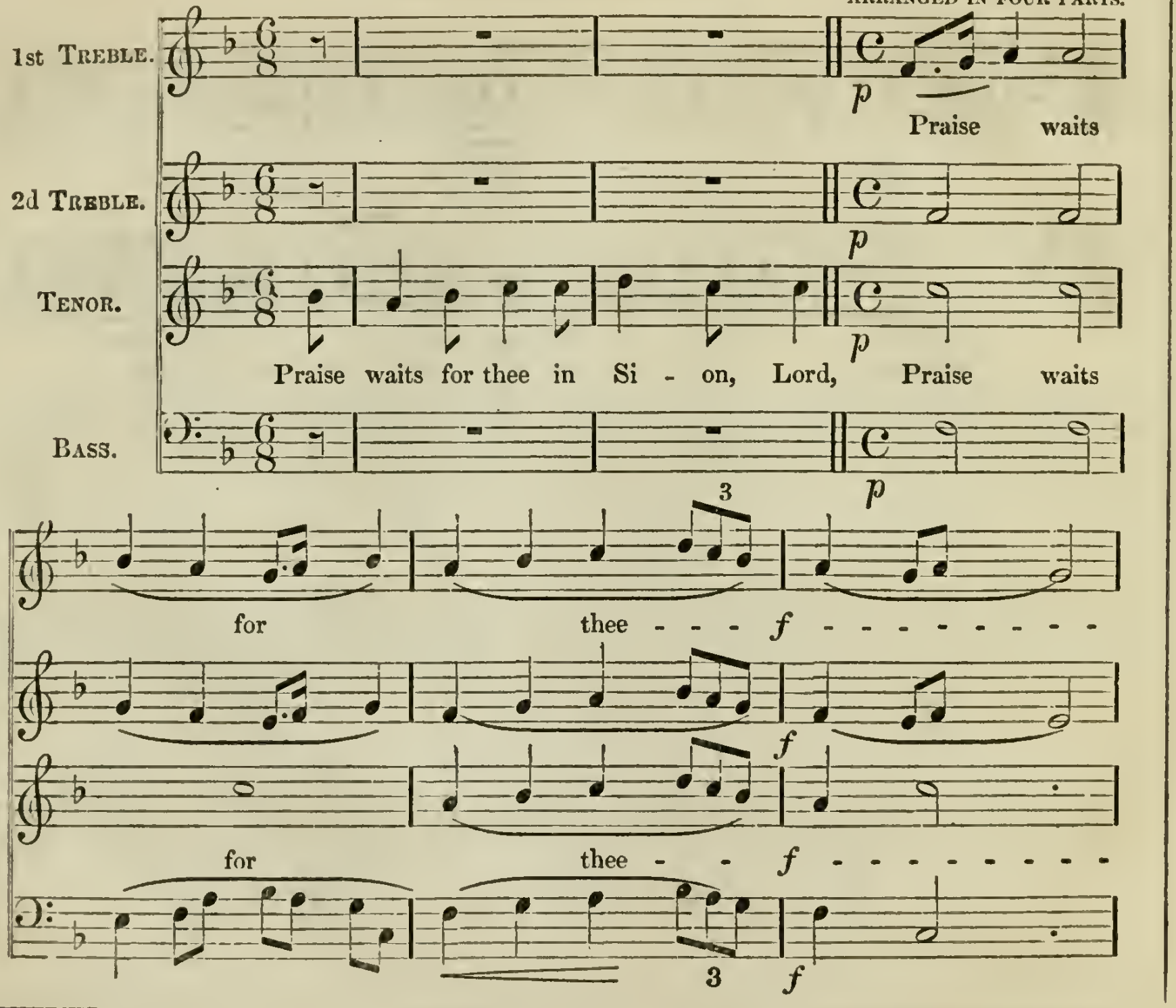


FRENCH.

ARRANGED IN FOUR PARTS.



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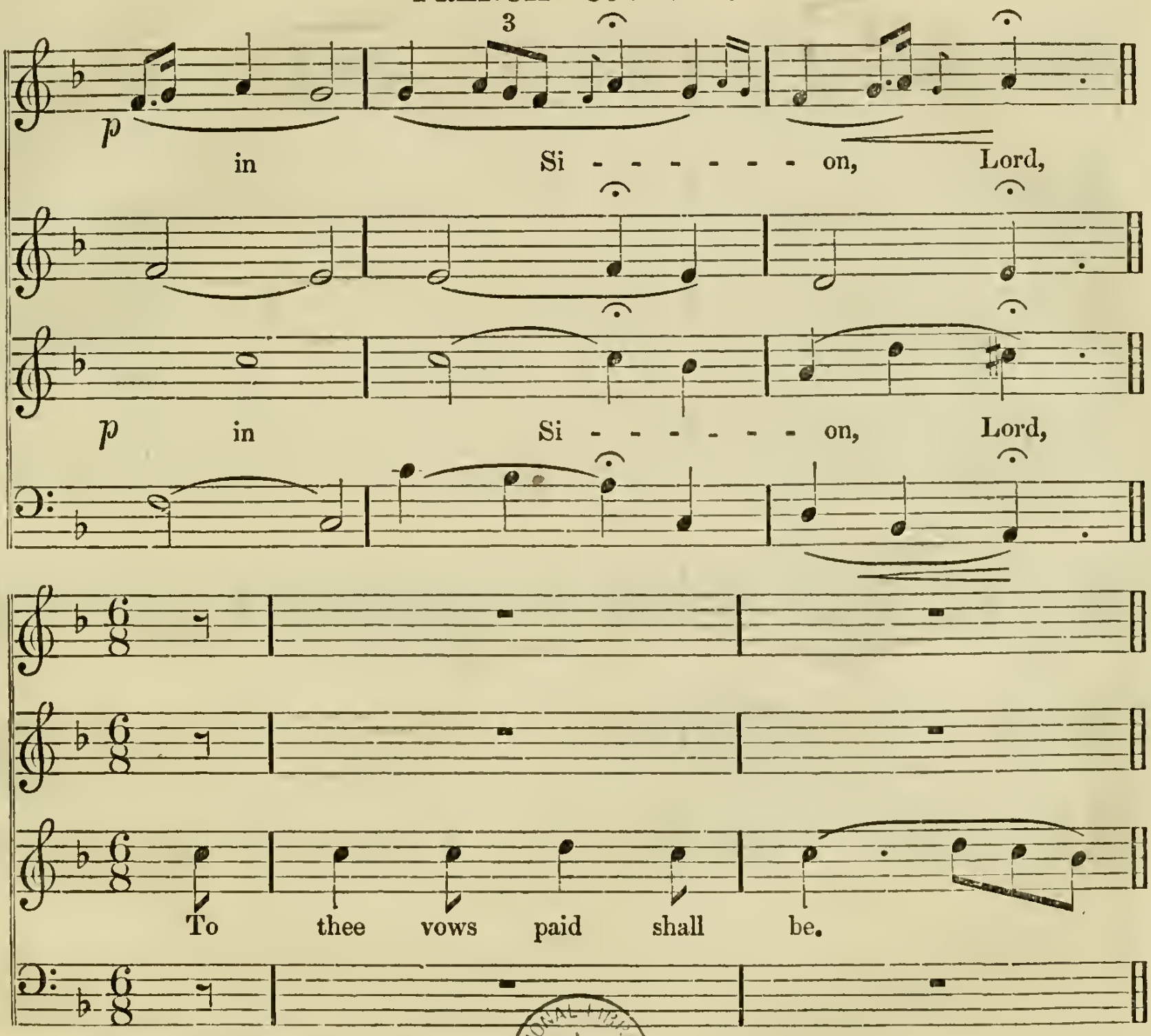
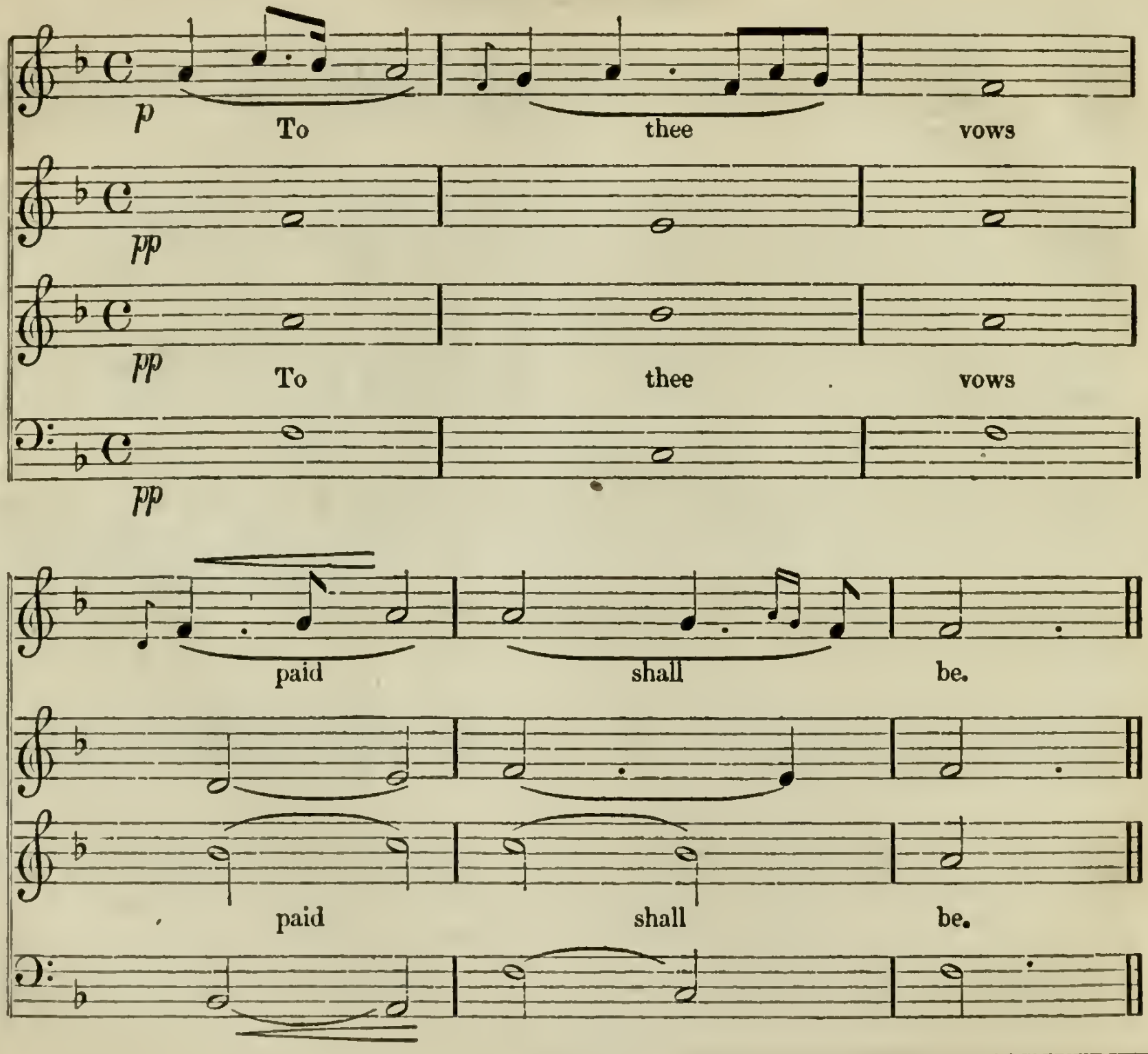
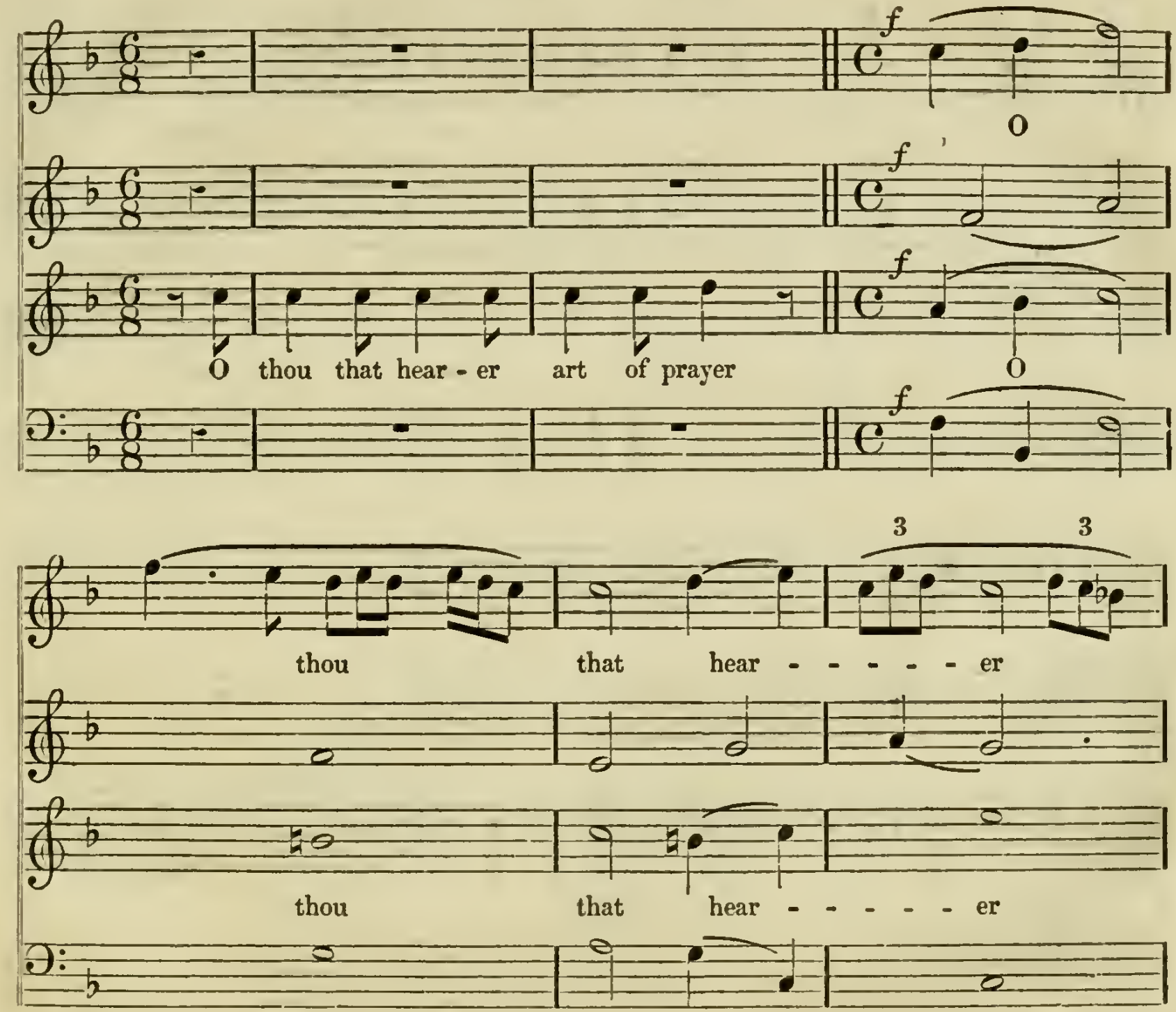
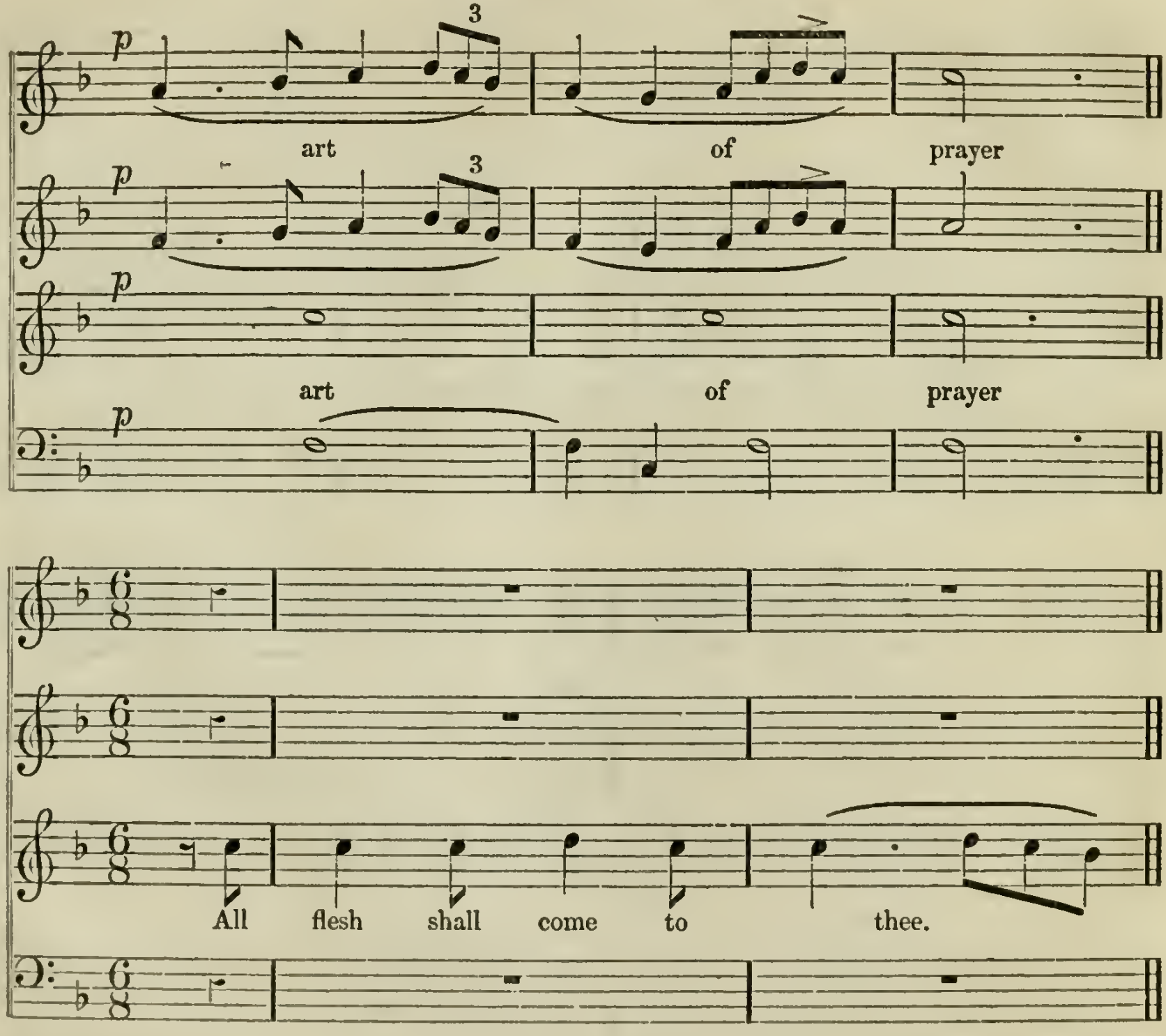
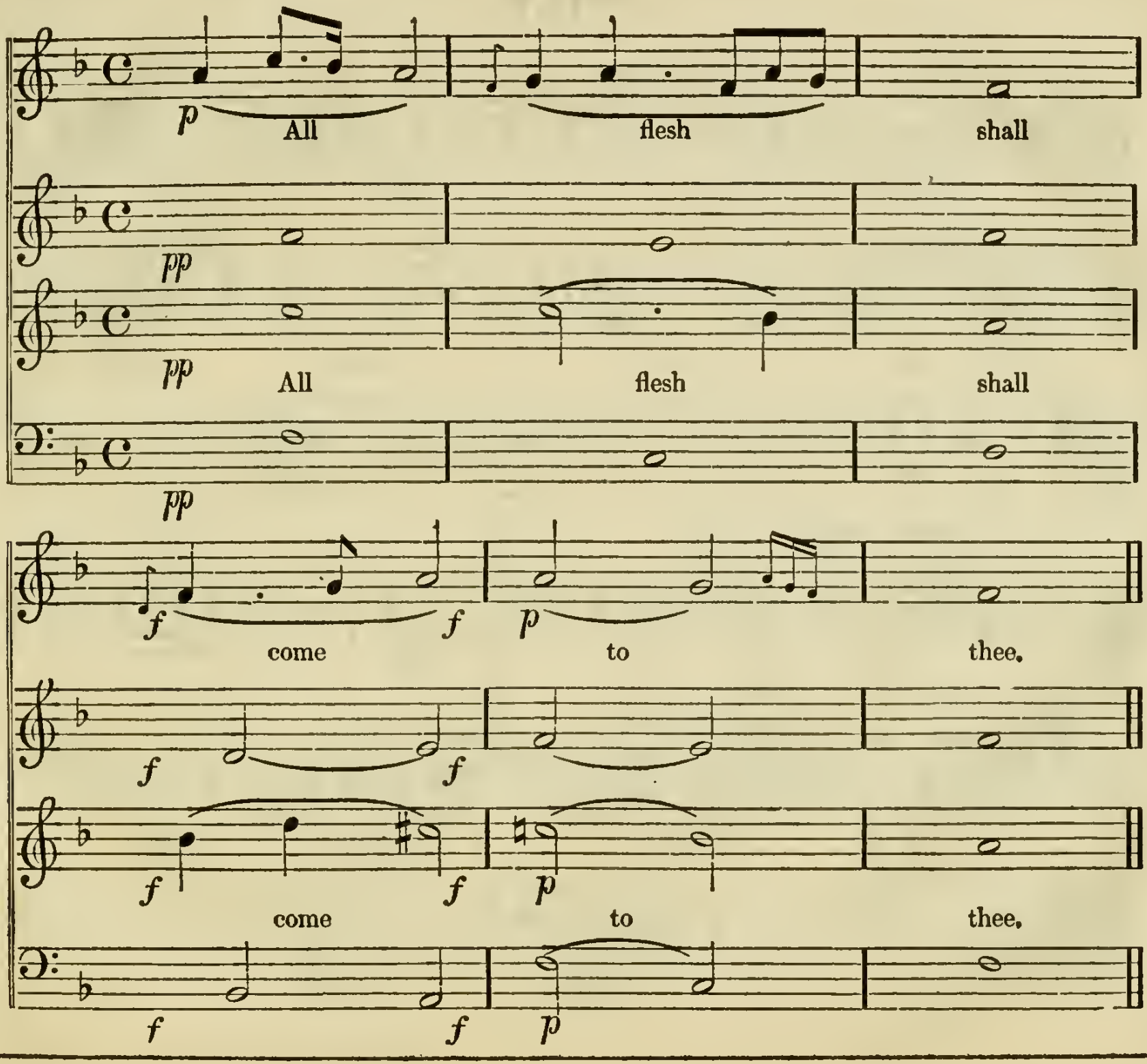



p
To
thee
vows
pp
pp
To
thee
vows
pp
paid
shall
be.
paid
shall
be.

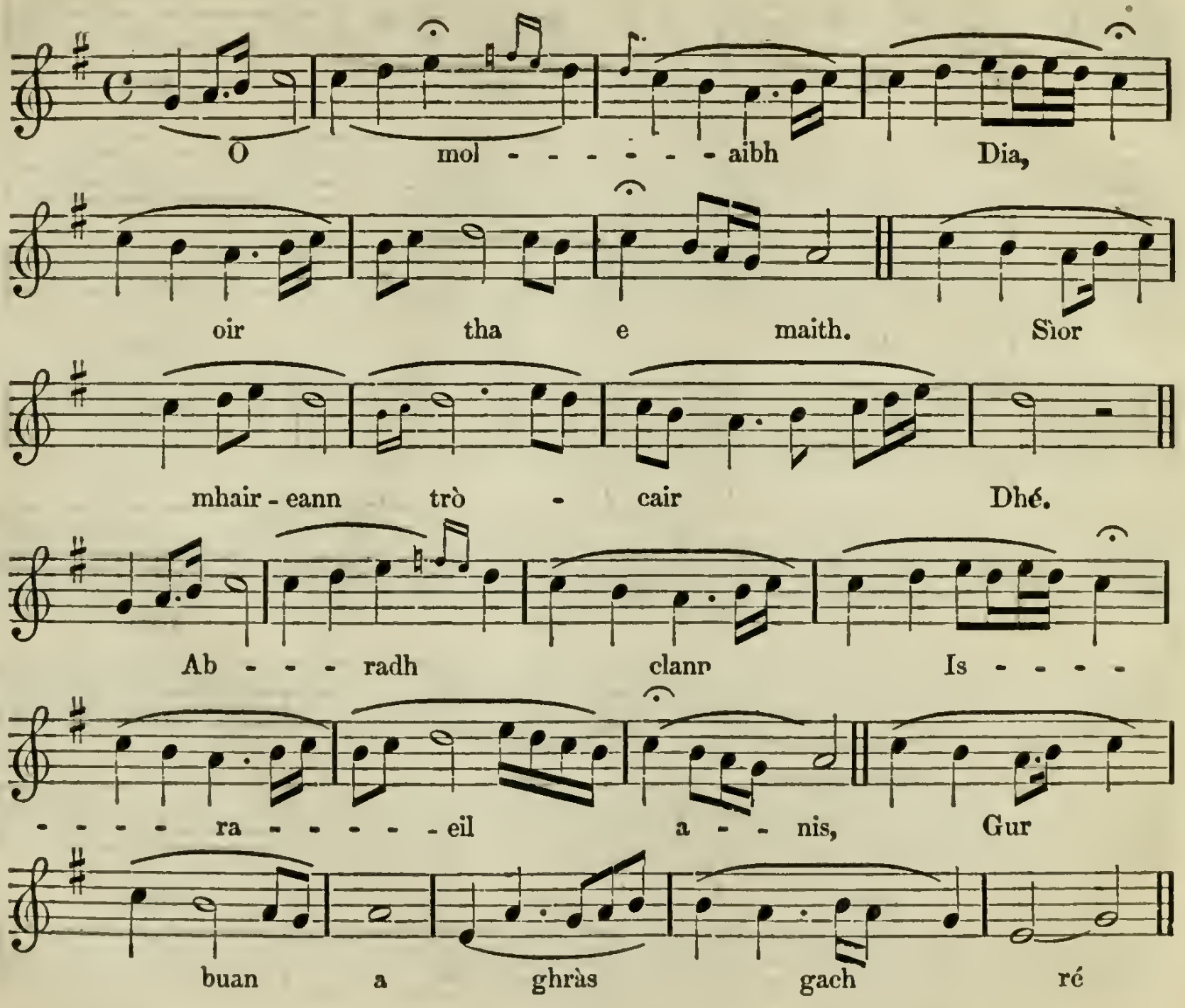

f
O
f
f
O
O thou that hear - er art of prayer
O
f
3
3
thou that hear - - - - - er
thou that hear - - - - - er

FRENCH—Continued.




p
All
flesh
shall
pp
pp
All
flesh
shall
pp
f
f
p
come
to
thee.
f
f
f
f
p
come
to
thee.
f
f
p

STILT.


O mol - - - - - - - aibh Dia,
oir tha e maith. Sìor
mhair - eann trò - cair Dhé.
Ab - - - radh clann Is - - - -
- - - - ra - - - - - - eil a - - nis, Gur
buan a ghràs gach ré